

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUNICH 02108 081623Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7449

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 2108

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AND CSU

REF: MUNICH 2085 (EXDIS)

1. IN SEPTEMBER 8 PRESS CONFERENCE HERE, CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS, RAISING LOCKHEED ISSUE HIMSELF, DECLARED THAT CSU WOULD NOT REMAIN ON DEFENSIVE ANY LONGER BUT WAS NOW PREPARED TO GO ON OFFENSIVE.

2. STRAUSS COMPLAINED THAT FRG GOVERNMENT, IN CONTRAST TO JAPANESE ET AL, HAD DELIBERATELY DELAYED TRANSFER OF DOCUMENTS FROM WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH FRG GOVERNMENT KNOWS BETTER, STRAUSS ASSERTED, IT WANTS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING IMPRESSION AMONG FRG VOTERS THAT USG FINDINGS CONTAIN DEROGATORY INFORMATION CONCERNING STRAUSS AND CSU.

3. STRAUSS CALLED ON FRGOVT. TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF DOCUMENTS SOONEST. HE NOTED USG HAD SENT CONDITIONS FOR TRANSFER BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT STRAUSS IS AWARE THAT USG HAS INSISTED THAT INFORMATION EXCHANGED BE KEPT WITHIN LAW ENFORCEMENT CHANNELS AND THAT HE CONCURS WITH USG POSITION.

4. STRAUSS SUGGESTED THAT IF ONE LOOKED INTO USG FILES ON LOCKHEED HE WOULD FIND THINGS WHICH ARE NOT YET COVERED BY
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PAGE 02 MUNICH 02108 081623Z

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS WHICH RELATE TO EVENTS TAKING PLACE FROM

1970 ON. WHEN ASKED IF HE WERE REFERRING TO FIRMS OTHER THAN LOCKHEED, STRAUSS INDICATD HE HAD NORTHRUP AND OTHERS IN MIND. HE QUICKLY INDICATED CSU DID NOT POSSESS KIND OF INFORMATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO MAKE DEFINITE STATEMENTS NOW.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER A FORMER STATE SECRETARY MIGHT BE INVOLVED, STRAUSS SAID CSU NOT IN POSITION TO SAY ANYTHING CONCRETE AND THAT SUCH QUESTIONS ARE PROPERLY THE BUSINESS OF FRG GOVT.

6. COMMENT: STRAUSS DISPLAYED GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT USG FINDINGS RE LOCKHEED ALLEGATIONS CONTAIN NOTHING WHICH WOULD IMPLICATE HIM OR CSU IN ILLEGAL ACTS. WE BELIEVE STRAUSS MAY BE PURSUING CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT STRATEGY OF REVEALING ONLY ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT MATERIALS POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING TO PRESENT GOVT. COALITION TO CONVINCE ITS LEADERS THAT IT MIGHT BE IN THEIR INTEREST TO REACH TACIT AGREEMENT TO SHELVE ISSUE, AT LEAST FOR DURATION OF CAMPAIGN.
BETTS

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